

## FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



As Essex District Attorney, it is my duty to expeditiously and effectively prosecute juvenile crime to ensure the safety of our schools and communities. During the past few years, we have seen a disturbing increase in the number of serious crimes committed by our youth, as well as a heightened level of violence associated with these acts.

Vigorous prosecution is not the only method to combat juvenile crime. Through the Juvenile and Youthful Diversion Programs, first time, non-violent offenders may be offered intervention and remedial measures as an effective way of addressing their problems. The youths are held responsible for their actions and must complete a monitored program. These effective programs were initiated by, and are administered through, this office.

The success of the Juvenile and Youthful Diversion Programs is dependent upon the continued collaboration by this office, court personnel, schools, local police and other community agencies. It is essential that we work together to identify youth at risk, and intervene before their behavior escalates to a level of serious criminal conduct.

I strongly believe a comprehensive, balanced approach, such as provided in the Juvenile and Youthful Diversion Program is a proper and effective way to confront juvenile crime. It seeks to ensure public safety and at the same time help youth at risk. It assists these youth in making the right decisions and ultimately becoming responsible and productive citizens.

Jonathan W. Blodgett  
Essex District Attorney

## Juvenile and District Courts

Essex County Juvenile Court (Lawrence)  
10 Railroad Street, Lawrence, MA 01841  
(978) 725-8810

Essex County Juvenile Court (Lynn)  
139 Central Ave, Lynn, MA 01901  
(978) 599-3890

Essex County Juvenile Court (Newburyport)  
Newburyport District Court  
188 State Street, Newburyport, MA 01950  
(978) 462-3511

Essex County Juvenile Court (Salem)  
45 Congress Street, Salem, MA 01970  
(978) 744-1562

Gloucester District Court  
197 Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930  
(978) 283-3701

Haverhill District Court  
James P. Ginty Blvd., Haverhill, MA 01830  
(978) 374-0380

Ipswich District Court  
Sitting in Newburyport District Court  
188 State Street, Newburyport, MA 01950  
(978) 462-3511

Lawrence District Court  
Fenton Judicial Center  
Two Appleton Street, Lawrence, MA 01840  
(978) 688-1147

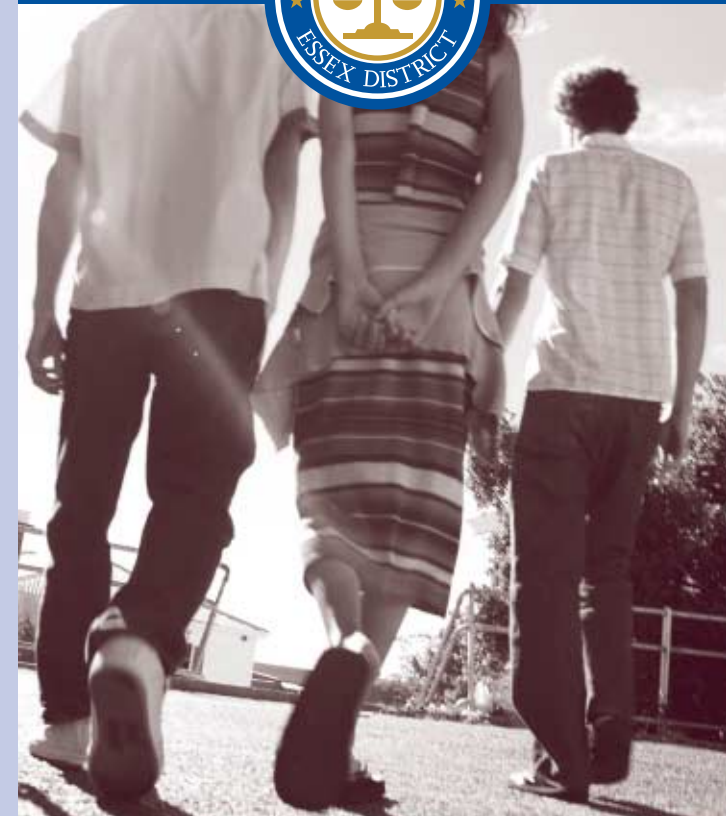
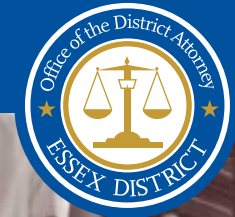
Lynn District Court  
580 Essex Street, Lynn, MA 01901  
(781) 581-3741

Peabody District Court  
One Lowell Street, Peabody, MA 01960  
(978) 532-4140

Salem District Court  
65 Washington St., Salem, MA 01970  
(978) 744-5681

District Attorney  
Jonathan W. Blodgett

# JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM



## JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAM

The Essex District Attorney's Juvenile Justice Program balances prosecution with prevention services, thereby providing an effective response to juvenile crime in Essex County. The program offers a comprehensive array of services that address the causes of juvenile delinquency and violence in our schools and communities.

### Juvenile Diversion Program

The Essex District Attorney's Juvenile Diversion Program is an innovative, national model that offers certain first-time, nonviolent juvenile offenders between the ages of 7-17, and their families an alternative to the juvenile court system. The program seeks to identify and address the causes of juvenile delinquency and prevent the further involvement of youth in the criminal justice system.

The program operates in the juvenile and district courts throughout Essex County. This prevention program began in 1981 and has evolved and expanded to meet the needs of youth and the communities in Essex County.

The Juvenile Diversion Program holds youth accountable for their actions. A juvenile offender must acknowledge responsibility for his or her behavior before entering the program. The juvenile signs a contract agreeing to participate in counseling and/or educational services (as determined by a counselor), perform community service, and, when appropriate, pay restitution. A parent or guardian must be present at the intake meeting and sign the contract. If the juvenile successfully completes all program requirements, the District Attorney does not prosecute the case and the juvenile will not have a court record. If the juvenile does not successfully complete the program or voluntarily withdraws, the District Attorney brings the case forward for prosecution.

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#### Juvenile Justice Program

Office of District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett  
Ten Federal Street, Salem, MA 01970  
978-745-6610  
[www.mass.gov/essexda](http://www.mass.gov/essexda)

## Youthful Diversion Program

Based on the model of Juvenile Diversion, the Youthful Diversion Program works with certain first-time young adult offenders between the ages of 17-21. The program was created to respond to widespread community concern about the effects of underage substance abuse.

The program requires participants to receive counseling and/or educational services and perform community service. The counseling and educational components give young people the opportunity to discuss substance abuse and other high-risk behavior and to learn how to make better decisions.

The Youthful Diversion Program is available in several District Courts in Essex County and continues to expand to other communities.

### Community Collaborative Initiative

The Community Collaborative Initiative meetings are designed to bring together schools, law enforcement and state agencies on a regular basis to address youth violence to enhance public safety.

Reducing youth violence and crime requires a multifaceted, multidisciplinary, and coordinated approach, which views prevention and early intervention as critical components. Since no single entity is capable of achieving the goal of creating safe schools and communities, Massachusetts General Law requires District Attorneys to establish, implement and coordinate regularly held meetings of police, schools and community leaders to address the issue of youth violence. These meetings are currently being held in all school districts in Essex County. A key part of this coordinated effort is the ability of schools, law enforcement officials, and state agencies to share information concerning school safety and at-risk youth. Community-based collaboration is the key element in this mandate.

## Special Initiatives

In addition to his firm commitment to investigate and prosecute all crimes, District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett has developed several special initiatives to promote public safety.

### Programs

**Stop Bullying Before It Starts: A Kids-to-Kids Prevention Project** is a program developed to raise awareness of the criminal implications of bullying and the need to take this problem seriously.

**Choose to Refuse: A Heroin and OxyContin Prevention Education Program** is a curriculum that helps youth understand the dangers of heroin and the illegal use of OxyContin and empowers them to refuse these drugs and to make better decisions in their lives.

**Flashpoint: Close-up on Cliques, Stereotypes and Individuals** is a two-session curriculum for middle-school students that uses media representations of individual and group behavior to act as springboards for discussion and critical thinking about these issues.

**FLASHPOINT for Parents: Close-up on Gangs** is video presentation designed for parents and other adults who are concerned about, or want to learn more about, gang activity and what strategies can be effective in preventing adolescents from joining gangs.

### Brochures

**Don't Give Kids Alcohol** is a brochure designed to educate parents and other adults about social host liability and the criminal and civil responsibility they bear if they allow underage drinking on their property.

**Teen Dating Violence: What to do now?** is a brochure designed to educate students about teen dating violence and provide solutions for teens who may be involved in a dating violence situation.